

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 15 and 20-23, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the
Application:

Claims 1-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A thin layer material consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm^3 .

Claim 15 (currently amended): A stack of thin layers, ~~comprising~~ said stack including at least one layer consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm^3 .

Claim 16 (previously presented): The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the stack comprises at least one layer of another material formed on a surface of the amorphous hafnium oxide layer.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said another material comprises silicon oxide.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the stack comprises alternate layers of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm^3 and another material.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said another material comprises silicon oxide.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An optical component having on at least one surface at least one layer consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm^3 .

Claim 21 (currently amended): The optical component as claimed in Claim 20, and comprising a stack of said thin layers of amorphous hafnium oxide.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The optical component as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the stack comprises alternate layers of said layers of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm³ and layers of another material.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The optical component as claimed in Claim 22, where said another material comprises silicon oxide.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING STREET
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567